

OFFICIAL GAZETTE



GOVERNMENT OF GOA

EXTRAORDINARY

GOVERNMENT OF GOA

Department of Women & Child Development

Notification

4/37/95-SWD/W&CD

Government is pleased to notify the State Policy for Women as reproduced below.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Goa

E. Silveira, Under Secretary (Women & Child Development).

STATE POLICY FOR WOMEN

Introduction:

The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles.

Within the framework of a democratic policy, our laws, development policies, plans and programmes have aimed at women advancement in different spheres and from the Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-75) onwards, there has been a marked shift in the approach to women's issues from welfare to development. The 73 and 74 Amendments (1993) to the Constitution of India have provided for reservation of seats in the local bodies of Panchayats and Municipalities for women, laying a strong foundation for their participation in decision making at the local levels.

The various women's movements, with a widespread net work of non-Government Organisations which have strong grassroots presence and deep insight into women's concerns has inspired many initiatives for the improvement of women.

On analysing the report on the status of women in the State of Goa, it is seen that there exists a very wide gap between the goals

enunciated in the Constitution, Legislation, plans, programmes and related mechanisms on the one hand and the situational reality on the other.

Gender disparity manifests itself in various forms, the most obvious being continuously declining sex ratios of women in the last few decades, social, stereo-typing and violence at the domestic and societal levels and some of other manifestations. Discrimination against girl children, adolescent girls and women still persists. Thus women access to and opportunities to avail of inputs related to education, health and productive resources among others, are inadequate and they remain socially excluded.

Taking into consideration the problems of the women in the State of Goa the State Government after consultations with N. G. Os., Social Activists, Researchers and other experts has drawn up this Policy.

The goal of this Policy is to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women mainly to be achieved by changing societal attitudes and elimination of Social injustice, active participation of gender prospectives, translation of de jure equality of women into defacto equality and affirmative action, wherever necessary.

Human Rights and Fundamental freedom:

The de jure and defacto enjoyment of all Human Rights and fundamental freedom of women on an equal basis with men shall be ensured both in letter and in spirit.

Elimination of Violence against Women:

All forms of violence against women, physical and mental whether at domestic or societal levels, particularly sexual abuse, torture by alcoholic husbands will be eliminated.

Mechanisms/Schemes for assistance will be created/strengthened for rehabilitation of the victims of violence also the action taking agencies be strengthened.

Ending Discrimination against women:

Equal rights of women will be ensured in respect of access to and opportunity to avail of quality education at all levels, career and vocational guidance, employment, equal remuneration, occupational health and safety, social security, health care and public office.

Special awards should be started to the employment Organisation/workshop which gives maximum employment opportunity to the women.

Elimination of Discrimination Against and violation of the Rights of the Girl Child:

Strict enforcement of laws against fore-natal sex selection and foeticide, female infanticide, child marriage, child abuse and child prostitution. No discrimination in the treatment of the girl in the family and outside will be allowed and positive image of the girl child will be actively fostered.

Women in Decision Making:

Active participation of women in decision making will be ensured for the achievement of the goals of quality, development and empowerment. All measures to be taken to guarantee women's equal access to and full participation in all decision making bodies at every level in the public/private sector, including legislative, executive, judicial, advisory commissions, committees, Boards, Trusts etc. Appointment of Nodal Officers in every Government Department/Agency in order to decimate necessary information and General Statistics on the welfare programmes for women. Also provision of percentage share of women Directors in Cooperative institution will have to be ensured.

Women and the Development Process:

Policies, programmes and systems will be established to ensure main streaming of women's perspectives in all development process. Co-ordinating and monitoring mechanisms will be devised to assess from time to time the progress of such main-streaming.

Sensitization to Women's issues:

Specially designed and well funded sensitization programmes will be conducted on a regular basis for all sections of society. There will be special focus on functionaries of the State in the Executive and Judicial wings and all developmental Agencies, Government and Non-Governmental.

Ensuring Provision of Women's Basic Needs:**a) Education:**

Equal access to education for women and girls will be ensured. Measures to be taken to make education compulsory for girls upto age of 14 years, eliminate discrimination, universalise educational system, increase enrolment and retention rate of girls. Vocational courses specially for women/girls in Hotel

Management, House Keeping, Fashion Designing, Computer Training in existing Institutions like Polytechnic and Nursing Institutions will be introduced. State will provide free education for girls/women upto graduation level. It will provide necessary assistance to widows, destitutes and divorced women to pursue their further education. A special rolling fund to the tune of Rs. 1 crore for providing financial assistance on loan basis to the girls who desire to pursue their higher and professional education and cannot do so because of poverty be created, the income criteria to be adopted for this financial assistance should be Rs. 25,000/-.

For the girls dropouts from eight standard onwards a separate scheme should be started for the benefits of these dropouts. A new subject "Computer Awareness" would be included in school curriculum.

b) Health:

A holistic approach to women's health will be adopted and special attention will be given to the needs of women throughout their lives, including the nutrition and basic services during infancy, childhood, adolescence, pregnancy reproductive years and services during old age, maternity leave of six months for mothers for adopting small family norms upto two children could be considered.

For ensuring general health of mother and child (especially the girl child) machinery should be set up for regular free health checkup after a certain age to check against disease like cancer, T. B. etc.. This should be provided through GMC by procuring equipments separately, women should be encouraged to take advantage of such advance modern facilities available in various institutions. Mobile clinics should be started by GMC in order to have free health checkup especially in rural areas. The system of maintaining health checkup cards in each and every school should be introduced.

c) Women and the Economy:

Women's perspectives will be included in designing and implementing macro-economic and social policies by institutionalising their participation in such process. Women's contribution to socio-economic development will be recognised in the formal and informal sectors and appropriate policies related to employment and other working conditions will be drawn up.

d) Support services:

Support services for women like child-care, facilities including creches at work places and educational Institutions. Hostels for working women, homes for the aged and the disabled will be expanded and improved so as to enable women to participate effectively in the development process. Also shelters and Short-Stay Homes be established for destitute, deserted, divorced women and unwed mothers.

Resources:

There will be an enhancement in the budget for women's programmes and earmarking of funds for women in the budget of Ministries/Departments implementing development Programmes in different sectors like education, health welfare, rural development, Urban Development, Labour, Agriculture, Industry, Science and allocation by Department/Agency.

Involvement of NGO's:

The involvement of Voluntary Organisations, Associations, Federations, Trade Unions and other non-Governmental Organisations including educational Institutions and University will be ensured in formulation, implementations, monitoring and review of all policies and programmes affecting women.